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16 MAY 56

TO: Chief of Staff, The Relative Counsel
FROM: Deputy Director (Support) /s/ H.G.L.
SUBJECT: S. 2948, A Bill to Provide Preference in Government Employment for Persons who Incur Permanent Disabilities While Serving as Civilian Employees of the Government

1. Subject bill seeks to provide preferential consideration in the Governmental employment of former employees who suffer from permanent physical disabilities incurred in the performance of duty.

2. The bill apparently would not involve this Agency since it contemplates the granting of five points to the earned ratings of individuals with permanent disabilities. We note, however, that the bill is not an amendment to an existing act and the coverage provisions are very broad.

3. With regard to the objective sought by this proposal, the preferential employment of individuals who suffer permanent disabilities as a result of an accident in the Government service would limit the Agency's flexibility and efficiency of personnel utilization. Assuming all other requirements of security, experience and qualifications were met, the employment of such personnel would tend to reduce our reservoir of employees qualified and available for overseas service. Also not to be overlooked is our desire to place in secondary work permanently disabled CIA personnel who have incurred permanent disability while in Agency service. Accordingly we do not believe the application of a standard which would automatically give preference to handicapped persons, without exception, is compatible with Agency requirements.

4. It is requested that this Office be informed as to any legislative developments, discussions or reports pertaining to the subject bill.

15/
Harrison O. Reynolds
Director of Personnel

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